

NAIA HOOPS REPORT PRESEASON MAGAZINE



Top 25

PRESEASON
TOP 25

LEAGUE PREVIEW

EARLY GAMES TO
WATCH

HEART OF A CHAMPION

THE RETURN OF
JACE LANCE

TOP PLAYERS

TOP RETURNERS
TOP TRANSERS

CONTENTS



15 HEART OF A CHAMPION - THE RETURN OF JACE LANCE

A FUN LOOK INTO THE 2023-2024 SEASON

02 DEFENDING NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Brief rundown of last years National Champions, College of Idaho.

04 WELCOME TO THE SEASON

A "welcome to the season" article or introduction to the magazine and what is new this season! New Teams, New Leagues, New Coaches!

08 NATIONAL PLAYER OF YEAR WATCH LIST

A look at the preseason National Player of the Year candidates.

09 NAIA HOOPS REPORT PRESEASON TOP 25

OUR ANNUAL PRESEASON RANKINGS



42

MEN'S BRACKETOLOGY REPORT

A preseason look at what a potential NAIA Men's Bracket could be.



20

CONFERENCE PREVIEWS

A guide to help get information out on leagues around the NAIA!

13 NON-CONF GAMES TO CIRCLE

A look at some of our favorite games during the 1st semester of action.

14 ABE LEMONS CLASSIC

A run down on the return of the Abe Lemons Classic at Oklahoma City.

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DEFENDING
NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

YOTES



COLLEGE OF IDAHO

2023 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

There is only one men's team in the entire country, at any level, to win 30+ games, five years in a row (excluded covid season). The Yotes have been dominant and their youth in the program may just help sustain that success. The Yotes are coming off of one of the more dominant National Title runs you will see. While the outcomes of some of the games were MUCH closer, College of Idaho was up by as much as 20 points in each and every game in the NAIA National Championships. They did let a couple teams back into games, but ultimately the Yotes looked like the team to beat since their opening night loss at Arizona Christian. They lost MVP, Charles Elzie, as he transfers to NCAA D2 Hawaii Hilo for his Senior season. We haven't seen a repeat National Champion since Oklahoma City did it in 2007 and 2008, so it's no easy task to repeat! The Yotes have the pieces inline to repeat. They will have a target on their back entering the season. However, Drew Wyman and the Yotes will be the team to beat entering into the 2023-2024 season!



WELCOME TO THE 2023-24 SEASON

225 teams begin with their eyes set on winning the 2023-24 NAIA Men's Basketball National Championship, but only 16 teams will make it to Kansas City with just one team who will be holding up the Red Banner.

T

he NAIA season will officially commence on October 26th, with Fisher (MA) and USCAA member, Vermont Tech, tipping off the first game at 12:01 am ET.

In total, there are 225 NAIA men's teams vying for a National Title, with 64 teams making it to the NAIA National Championships and just 16 teams making it to the final site which is held at historic Municipal Auditorium in Kansas City, Missouri!

The Defending National Champions, College of Idaho, will once again be the team to beat this season. However, as you will see throughout this magazine, they have plenty of competition as teams loaded up for the 2023-2024 season.

The best part about the start of each season is that, for most, optimism fills the air. Sure, we know, for the most part, what teams are positioned well for league titles. However, the season still has to be played. There will be injuries. There will be upsets. There will be surprise teams who make a jump in standings. There will also be teams who won't perform as expected. There are no guarantees at this level of play.

The talent pool in the NAIA is as good as we have maybe ever seen it. There are five 1st team All-Americans back with 30 total All-Americans returning this season. We also have a ton of very productive NCAA D1 and D2 transfers coming in this season. Transfers are a pretty common thing this day and age, but I am not sure

that we have ever seen this many transfers, especially from the D1 ranks, who have averaged 10 or more points per game.

With the transfer portal being as prevalent as ever, both in the aspect of NAIA to D1/D2 and D1/D2 to NAIA, it allows for coaches to build their programs in different ways. We have seen both ways be successful. You can win at this level with four-year kids, and you can win at this level with a transfer heavy roster. You can also lose at this level with both as well. The one thing that seems to be consistent with winning programs are that they are just better at what they do, then what others are at what they do. As much as people will try to tell you there is, the truth is, that there isn't any secret to success. No "one/only way" to build a successful program. If that were true, everyone would build teams the same way, play the same style of basketball and the game would probably be super boring and repetitive.

The said can be said at any level or any sport for that matter. However, for us, it is fun to see what teams look like early on in the season compared to how they finish. This season will be no different. We will see those teams who start slow and then come on strong at the end of the season as they start to figure things out. We will also see those teams who, for whatever reason, can't quite figure it out, despite being loaded on paper. The season is full of ups and downs. Those who can battle through adversity are usually the ones who find success.

Who is going to win a National Title this season? We don't have those answers. This magazine simply helps to give insight on the NAIA level and to help paint the picture of the early season. Will there be teams we miss on both high and low? ABSOLUTELY! We are okay with and expect to be wrong a lot. That is what makes the season so much fun to watch! That is why the games are played! We received questionnaires this season from nearly 200 of the NAIA programs. Maybe one day we can be like the D1 Almanac and do write ups on every program. However, at this point, we are unable to do that and know that there will be players or teams we miss in our league writeups. We apologize upfront for that. We do believe though, that this is a good starting point to help to get the most information out as possible on this level and to get people to start getting excited about the season!



WHAT'S NEW IN 2023-24?

New Teams:



New to Leagues:



New Coaches:

A



Tyler Bredehett
Avila (KS)



Trevor Flemmer
Bethany (KS)



Colin Johnson
Cal Maritime



Ryan Lungren
Carroll (MT)



Dorian Hobbs Jr.
Culver-Stockton (MO)



Darren Tighe
Dakota State (ND)



Ben Tucker
Embry Riddle (AZ)



Delano Thomas
Florida Memorial



Phil McClintock
Friends (KS)



Todd Lorensen
Graceland (IA)



Mark Darnell
Jessup (CA)



Logan Sharp
Johnson (TN)



Dimario Jackson
LSU Alexandria



Akeem Scott
Midway (OH)



Patrick Jensen
Montana Western



Tayo Gem
Multnomah (OR)

New Coaches (continued):



Brian Doze Jr.
North American



Richard Westerlund
Northwestern Ohio



Charles Belt
Oklahoma Panhandle St.



Roman Gentry
Peru State



Howard White, Jr.
Rust



Jesse McClung
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods (IN)



Mike Hunter
Shawnee State (OH)



David Cone
Simpson (CA)



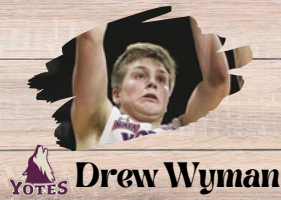
J.C. Isakson
Providence (MT)



Jordan Ashton
William Woods (MO)

NAIA Player of the Year Watch List:

Returning Faces



New Faces





2023-2024 PRESEASON TOP 25

01.

COLLEGE OF IDAHO

The Yotes are the real deal and are your defending National Champions. They were a young squad last season and are only having to replace one player from last season. Charles Elzie isn't an easy one to replace, but the Yotes are still primed to become the first NAIA back-to-back National Champions since the 06-07 Oklahoma City teams. C of I isn't just talented but they are also well coached and play so well together. Drew Wyman is a National POY candidate and Sophomore, Samaje Morgan was sensational in last years tournament. Combine the experience, coaching and talent they have coming back and that puts the Yotes as the team to beat once again this season!

REST OF THE TOP 10

02.

LANGSTON (OK)

Coach Chris Wright is as good as they get when it comes to reloading teams up with talent. And this team may be his most talented team yet! Five DI transfers join the Lions to join returners, Cortez Mosley and Toru Dean. As always, the challenge is how do these guys mesh on the court. Not sure anyone does that as well as Chris Wright though and the Lions, at least on paper, look like the real deal as we start the season!

03.

GRACE (IN)

Talent, experience, size, guard play, coaching, star power. The Lancers have all the ingredients you need to win a National Title. This is a group that has been playing together for nearly four years now. Jakob and Cade Gibbs give the Lancers the outside punch, while Elijah Malone, one of the best bigs in the country, mans the inside! Losing Frankie Davison, is tough, but the Lancers still have PLENTY of firepower for a Title run!

04.

ARIZONA CHRISTIAN

The Firestorm are coming off of an NAIA Quarterfinals run last season and now return four of their Top Five scorers. Paul Hayden (3rd team All-American), Dennis Flowers, Trent Hugens and Mikah Blackwell (GSAC DPOY). ACU brings in Anthony Garza who was the Western State Conf POY at his JUCO and a couple other impact JUCO guys. Also keep a look out for Freshmen, Sam Buckley, Derrius Carter-Hollinger, Emery Young and Tyson Monck.

05.

MONTANA TECH

Every year, we start the preseason off with an aggressive ranking for a team we love. This year, it's the Diggers of Montana Tech that we are really high on and have aggressively ranked inside of our Top 5. Fresh off of an Elite 8 performance last season, Tech returns All-American Caleb Bellach along with four starters and bring in Carroll transfer, Brayden Koch. This is a well coached and talented team who made a deep run despite not having Bellach for NAIA Tournament.

06.

OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN

Oklahoma Wesleyan was a Top 10 team for the better part of last season. However, the Eagles would lose in the NAIA Round of 32. The good news for Eagles fans is that All-Americans, Jaden Lietzke and Kaleb Stokes return. As does most of the rest of last years team. The Eagles fell a little short of Kansas City last year, but have as good of shot as anyone to make a return!

07.

THE MASTER'S (CA)

The Mustangs, despite having a good season, had an opening round game they would like to forget. However, they return one of the best Forwards in the country in Kaleb Lowery. The Junior has already had two big time seasons to start his career. They may not start out as a Top 10 team in the official NAIA rankings, but The Mustangs are going to be very good this season!

08.

UNION (KY)

Coming off of a 27-3 season, the Bulldogs look to bounce back from an opening round upset loss last season. Markelle Turner is back again. The four time All-American enters this season as a National POY candidate. The terrific trio of him, Markelo Sullivan and Terrin Hamilton make the Bulldogs a tough matchup!

09.















GEORGETOWN (KY)

Georgetown really came on in the second semester as they advanced to the NAIA Quarterfinals! Jake Ohmer is gone, but All-Tournament selection, Kyran Jones is back. As are three other starters in All-American, Cam Brooks-Harris, Tae Dozier, Rashad Bishop and Jaquay Weales. Keep an eye on the Tigers!

10.

INDIANA WESLEYAN

IWU won their 3rd straight Crossroads League title last season and while they lost in the Round of 32, it was a true road game, vs a very tough Georgetown team. They lose Spencer Piercefield and Seth Maxwell. However, Javan Buchanan, Griffin Kliewer and newcomer, Luke Brown keep IWU a National Championship contender.

- 11  LSU SHREVEPORT
- 12  SOUTHWESTERN KS
- 13  ST THOMAS (FL)
- 14  HUNTINGTON (IN)
- 15  FREED-HARDEMAN (TN)
- 16  WAYLAND BAPTIST (TX)
- 17  NORTHWESTERN (IA)
- 18  DORDT (IA)
- 19  FAULKNER (AL)
- 20  KANSAS WESLEYAN
- 21  MORNINGSIDE (IA)
- 22  OLNET NAZARENE (IL)
- 23  MARIAN (IN)
- 24  WILLIAM PENN (IA)
- 25  CUMBERLANDS (KY)

NON-CONF GAMES TO CIRCLE

(1ST SEMESTER)

OCTOBER

26TH

NIGHT HAWKS THOMAS (GA) @ FLORIDA COLLEGE

27TH

INDIANA WESLEYAN @ INDIANA TECH

WHAAC/CL CHALLENGE

28TH

GRENADIERS SOUTHEAST VS MARIAN

31ST

FREED-HARDEMAN @ UT SOUTHERN

NOVEMBER

1ST

OKLAHOMA WESLEYAN @ SCIENCE & ARTS

3RD

HORNED LIZARDS MUSTANGS MORNINGSIDE @ KANSAS WESLEYAN

4TH

OLDET NAZARENE @ INDIANA TECH

6TH

WILLIAM WOODS @ CENTRAL METHODIST

8TH

ANTELOPE VALLEY @ THE MASTERS

10TH

SOUTHEASTERN (FL) @ LIFE

11TH

SPIRIT OTTAWA (AZ) @ TK WESLEYAN

11TH

INDIANA TECH @ OLDET NAZARENE

16TH

LSU SHREVEPORT @ SACU

18TH

LEWIS CLARK STATE @ MONTANA TECH

24TH

HIU HOPE INTERNATIONAL @ COLLEGE OF IDAHO

25TH

BENEDICTINE (KS) @ SOUTHWESTERN (KS)

26TH

SEU SOUTHEASTERN (FL) @ UPIKE PIKEVILLE

30TH

THE MASTERS @ FL MEMORIAL

DECEMBER

6TH

LOYOLA @ LSU SHREVEPORT

9TH

CUMBERLANDS @ RIO GRANDE

12TH

GAU GEORGETOWN VS BETHEL (IN)

15TH

VALLEY CITY STATE @ JAMESTOWN

16TH

UNION @ FREED-HARDEMAN

19TH

MORNINGSIDE (IA) @ ST THOMAS (FL)

19TH

LSU SHREVEPORT @ LANGSTON

20TH

NORTHWESTERN (IA) @ HOPE INTERNATIONAL

ABE LEMONS CLASSIC

THE NAJA IS FULL OF GREAT CLASSICS. THEY VARY IN SIZE, BUT ALL OF THEM HELP TO ALLOW PROGRAMS FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY TO TRAVEL TO PLAY MULTIPLE GAMES IN A WEEK/WEEKEND. OKLAHOMA CITY HEAD COACH, COACH MARK BEROKOFF, HAS REALLY DONE A GREAT JOB OF BRINGING ATTENTION BACK TO ONE OF THE MORE TRADITION RICH PROGRAMS IN THE NAJA. NO PROGRAM IN THE NAJA HAS MORE NATIONAL TITLES (6). THE PROGRAM HAS ALSO HAD 11 GUYS PLAY IN THE NBA. A LOT OF THAT TRADITION STEMMED FROM LEGENDARY HEAD COACH AND HALL OF FAMER, A.E. "ABE" LEMONS. COACH LEMONS WAS AT OCU FOR 25 SEASONS. HE LED THE STARS TO SEVEN NCAA TOURNAMENT APPEARANCES AND WON THE ALL-COLLEGE TOURNAMENT IN 1965. HE WOULD LEAVE THE PROGRAM TO COACH AT TX-PAN AMERICA AND THEN THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS. COACH LEMONS WOULD LATER RETURN TO OCU AND LEAD THEM TO AN UNDEFEATED REGULAR SEASON IN 1986-1987. THEY WOULD FALL IN THE NAJA TOURNAMENT TO FINISH THE SEASON 34-1. IN 1986 HE WAS THE SOONER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE COACH OF THE YEAR AND THEN IN 1987 WAS ALSO NAMED THE BASKETBALL TIMES COACH OF THE YEAR. HE WAS 427-264 IN HIS 25 YEARS AT OKLAHOMA CITY. THIS YEAR, THE ABE LEMONS CLASSIC RETURNS, NOVEMBER 2ND-4TH, AFTER MORE THAN 25 YEARS. COACH BEROKOFF AND STAFF HAVE A REALLY FUN, SEVEN TEAM FIELD COMING TO ABE LEMONS ARENA.

COACH BEROKOFF ON BRINGING BACK THE ABE LEMONS CLASSIC "I AM INCREDIBLY FIRED UP TO BRING BACK THIS CLASSIC. THE NAME ABE LEMONS IS KNOWN THROUGHOUT COLLEGE BASKETBALL. OUR GOAL IS TO MAKE IT THIS THE PREMIER EVENT IN ALL OF THE NAJA!"

THURSDAY, NOV 2ND

5PM  VS 

7PM  VS 

FRIDAY, NOV. 3RD

3PM  VS 

5P,  VS 

7PM  VS 

SATURAY, NOV. 4TH

NOON  VS 

2PM  VS 

4PM  VS 



HEART OF A CHAMPION RETURN OF JACE LANCE



February 3rd, 2023 started out like any other day in Marshall, Missouri. Sophomore Point Guard, Jace Lance was attending classes while his dad, Viking Head Coach Chad Lance, was working on practice plan ahead of a big Saturday, Heart of America, showdown with league leading William Penn University. Practice was scheduled for 3pm, but Coach Lance decided that he just wanted a 45 minute shooting practice inside of Burns Gymnasium. Jace wasn't happy with that decision, and as a leader, sent a text to his coach/dad with his preference for a longer practice ahead of the game. He was overruled, in a decision that, in the end, saved his life.

The practice started off like any other. Jace, had gotten over his dad's practice change and started off practice being a vocal leader. Then, without warning, Jace went quiet and stepped out of the drill. It was the very first minute of the very first drill so teammate Oliver Paulson-Gerard had some concern and was keeping an eye on Jace as the drill continued. Oliver saw Jace, rolled backwards, in what he thought was a seizure. He immediately ran down the hall to the trainers office to alert Associate Athletic Trainer, Richelle Perkins, In the meantime, Jace had awoken and was back on his feet walking towards the bleachers. Jace would collapse again. He was having Sudden Cardiac Arrest. His dad, jumped into action and began CPR. The MVC assistant coaches quickly got the rest of the team to the locker room, while assistant Romone Powell, called Jace's mom, Ellen, who has spent over 20yr as a coaches wife, knew that a call, from the assistant coach, in the middle of a practice, wasn't a good thing. Her initial thought was that something had happened to her husband, Chad. Never, as a parent, do you expect the news she was about to hear on the other end of the line.

See, at this time, Richelle, was running across the floor to the fallen player, and quickly knew the CPR, being performed by dad, to his own son, wasn't working. She ran over to grab the AED that was a few feet away. This is when Coach Powell told Ellen ""Get here NOW, they are putting the AED on Jace now!" As the words were being spoke, Richelle administered one shock and Jace came back alive!! He, understandably, was confused and asked what was going on? Shortly after, Ellen would arrive to the sight of her son still laying on the hardwood floor of Burns Gymnasium. The gym, that was right down the hall from the training room. A place they weren't even supposed to be practicing in, but a last minute change to the practice plan, by Head Coach, Chad Lance, may have just been God's way of helping a father not have to say goodbye to his son.



Ellen, being in healthcare for most of her adult life jumped into action upon arrival. As the adrenaline of those in the gym started to wear off, emotions started to set in. Ellen, asked if 9-1-1 had been called. She consoled a tearful Richelle and let her know that she did EXACTLY what she was trained to do! ""You saved his life!" Ellen assured Richelle. Ellen would also hear someone else sobbing in the distance. Her husband, who just went through a tramatic event with his own son.

Ellen told her husband "now is not the time. Jace doesn't know what happened and he cannot feel stress from you or I. You saw things no parent should have to see but we can't do this here and now."

Jace being coached up by his dad/Viking Head Coach, Chad Lance.

For the players sake, they were brought back out of the locker room. They needed to see that "UNO" was still alive and Jace was able to let them all know that he was going to be okay. An absolute traumatic event for all involved.



Jace and his dad switch places in the hospital room.

With Jace alive and headed to the hospital, the next step in the process was for the family to find answers to what happened and if Jace was truly in the clear. In total, Jace would be in the hospital for the next eight days. The first night, while his dad was still in tears, Jace told his dad:

"you can cry today. But after today.... No more tears. Promise me tomorrow no more tears."

There wasn't much sleep happening, for anyone, over those days. Every day was a roller coaster. Doctors were running tests and all seemed to have different diagnosis.

one resident, before consulting the team of physician, came in to tell Jace that he was going to have to make a big lifestyle change and that he was done playing basketball and his heart wouldn't be able to withstand coaching basketball either.

The "you can't cry after today" didn't last long. The news brought Coach Lance and Ellen to tears. A few hours later a team of Cardiologists came in and told Jace that the precious information wasn't correct. They needed to run more tests before anything could be decided.

News had also spread across the NAIA ranks. coaches from all across the country sent Coach Lance and Jace their well wishes. HOF coach, Jeff Sherman, a guy who also had the honor of coaching his son, Matt, at Central Methodist (MO) and had become good friends with Chad while also watching Jace play growing up, made sure to stop in to see Jace while he was in the hospital. The messages and visits not only helped lift up Jace, but were also pivotal in helping to uplift Coach Lance's spirits as well!



Jace and former Central Methodist Head Coach, Jeff Sherman.

The Missouri Valley team also stopped in to see "UNO". A team who went through a million emotions themselves. After a meeting, they elected to go ahead and play the next day against Park (MO). Jace wanted his dad to go to the game, but there was no way his dad was leaving his side. They were able to watch the team in the hospital room. An emotional game, that MVC would win!

Before leaving the hospital, Jace took a stressed echocardiogram. He ran 2 miles at a 16.8 incline and smashed it! He had a heart catheterization, an EP study (Electrophysiology study), cardiac MRI and finally the placement of the ICD with pacemaker. He was released to go home, but as an independent 21yr old, was suddenly very dependent on his parents again. Before he was able to return to campus living, his mother made sure he was able to take his medications on schedule. Finally, four days before Spring Break, Jace made his return back to campus. He went to watch practices and workouts every day. Finally, with a ball back in his hands, Jace knew he wanted to make it back to play. It was going to be tons of work, but as a coaches kid, he had a basketball in his hands basically since birth.



The pregame hug between coach/father and player/so that has become tradition for the two.

Rehabbing, conditioning, taking his meds. Jace's day-to-day routine may look different then years past, but his goals remain high. A guy who broke his foot his Senior year of high school to end his season and then saw Covid completely take away the rest of his Senior year. He is used to set-backs. He is used to being a fighter. Now he gets to fight back once again. Jace makes his return back to action on November 4th when the Vikings host Columbia (MO) at 6pm. It has been tradition for Jace to find his dad and give him a hug before he takes the floor. His dad, I am sure, will break the no crying rule again as I imagine the hug on November 4th, will come with a lot of emotions. A hug not just between a coach and his point guard, or even just between a father and son, but a hug that signifies a triumphant return by a kid with the heart of a champion!

A LETTER FROM JACE:

It means the world to me to be able to be back and being able to play. Of course, it has been a very up and down road throughout my process, but I can't be more excited to put that purple and orange back on this season.

This season I'm looking forward to finishing what I started. I was having a great year until it was cut short, so I want to come back right where I left off. Next, I just want to be a better teammate. I want my teammates to know that I'm here for them and we can get through anything together.

I want to say thank you to everyone who was there to save my life. You never know when things like this can happen, and I am forever in debt to them. To my dad, I love you with all I got. I can't wait to be on the floor for you and show you that I am with you to finish this out. I can never repay you for saving my life. Playing hard and devoting this year to nothing more than my health and the success of this team. That's the least I could do. To my trainer, Richelle, I owe you, my life. I know you are busy with all of us boys all the time and it's a headache sometimes, but you do an amazing job and I know the whole men's basketball team loves you for it.

Lastly, I just want to say thank you to my teammates. They have had a huge impact on my recovery. I love you guys with all I got. You guys had me on February 3 and now it's my turn to return the favor. Uno is here and has y'all's back. No Viking stands alone.

Love Jace aka, Uno

The risk for abnormal heart conditions can be fatal. 1 out of every 500 athletes suffers from sudden cardiac arrest. Less than 2% of those survive SCA. There currently is no echocardiogram testing with sports physicals. Jace is blessed to be a part of the 2% and the family is adamant about spreading awareness to help others. While testing isn't free, it's worth the price of not seeing a life lost. For more information, please visit myheartcheck.org!



NAIA MEN'S NATIONAL TITLES

SINCE THE MERGER

2021



2022



2023



TOTAL NAIA TITLES AMONGST ACTIVE NAIA MEMBERS

6



3



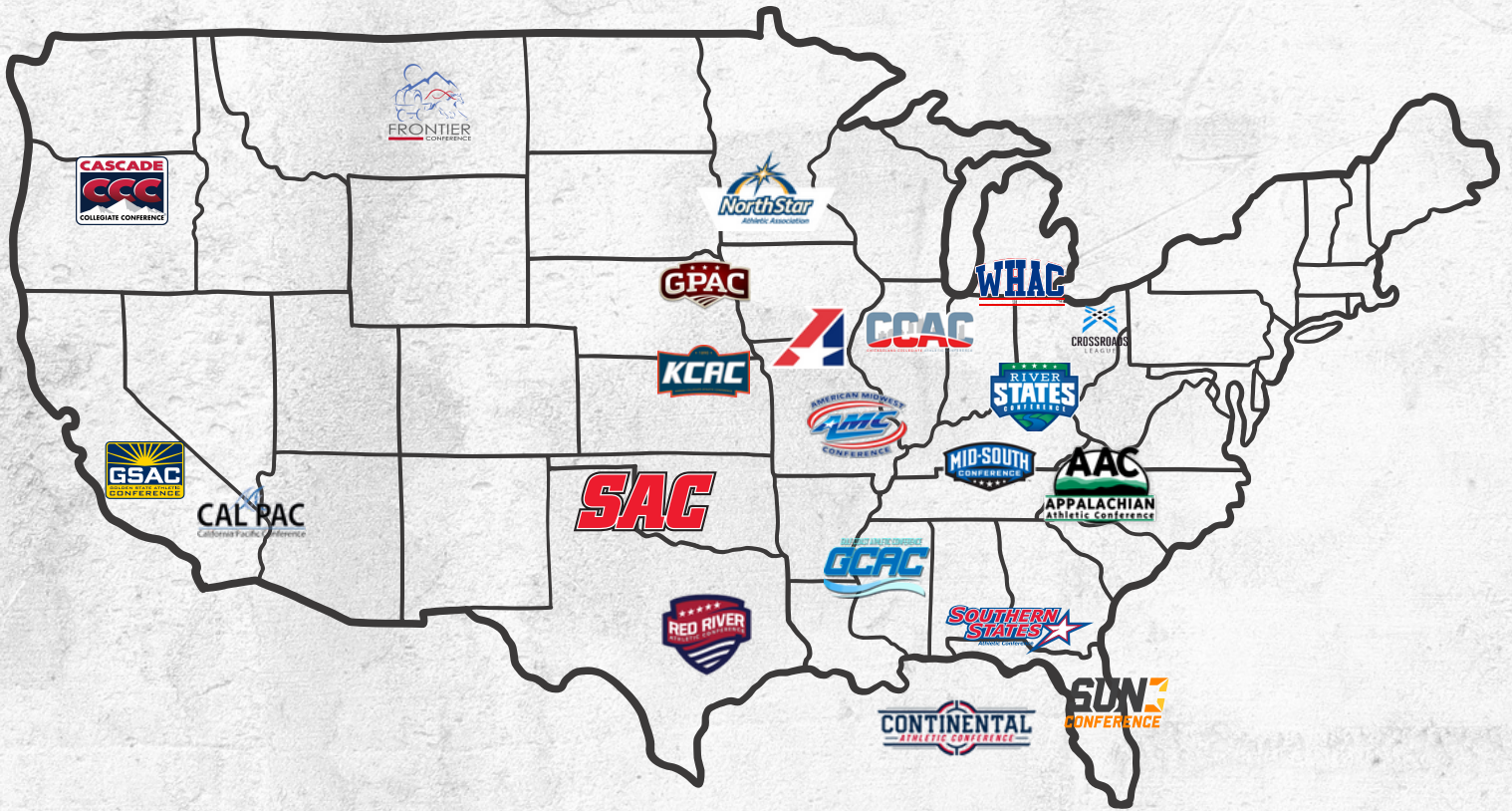
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1



CONFERENCE PREVIEWS





Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



FAVORITES TO WIN LEAGUE



COLUMBIA LOOKS TO REMAIN ATOP THE AMC AGAIN THIS SEASON AND THEY RETURN 13 PLAYERS FROM A 23 WIN TEAM LAST SEASON. INCLUDED IN THAT 13 IS COLLIN PARKER (1ST TEAM ALL AMC) AND TRENDON TISDALE (HM ALL AMC). THEY ALSO GET A NICE BOOST FROM HARRISON VICKERS, WHO WAS THE AMC FR OF THE YEAR IN 2021. HE IS TRANSFERING BACK TO COLUMBIA FROM D2 MARYVILLE. THIS IS A TOUGH COUGARS GROUP WHO COMES INTO THE SEASON AS THE FAVORITES AGAIN!



LISTEN, THE OWLS ARE ESSENTIALLY THE TOP 25 IOWA WESLEYAN SQUAD THAT WE SAW LAST SEASON. WITH THE UNIVERSITY SHUTTING DOWN, HEAD COACH JORDAN ASHTON WILL NOW TRY TO CARRY ON THAT SUCCESS FROM IWC LAST SEASON AND BRING IT TO WILLIAM WOODS. ALL-AMERICAN, HENRY SHANNON, MAKES THE MOVE WITH COACH ASHTON. THIS IS A GROUP, WHO SHOULDN'T SURPRISE PEOPLE ANYMORE. THEY MAY BE IN A NEW LEAGUE, BUT THIS IS VIRTUALLY THE SAME TEAM THAT WAS A TOP 25 TEAM LATE IN THE SEASON LAST YEAR!



CENTRAL BAPTIST IS ALWAYS TOUGH AND THEY COME OFF OF A 10-5 SEASON WHERE THEY FINISHED 3RD IN THE REGULAR SEASON AMC STANDINGS AND LOST IN THE AMC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME TO COLUMBIA. IF DESHAWN CORPREW CAN MAKE A FULL RECOVERY OFF OF HIS ACHILLIES INJURY, CBC WILL BE RIGHT THERE AT THE END OF THE SEASON ONCE AGAIN. AS IS, THEY RETURN DEVON FOSTER (AMC ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM) AND TOMAS MIKYSKA. THEY BRING IN SIX TRANSFERS THAT THEY ARE COUNTING ON A TON AS WELL. LED BY JUCO STANDOUT, SAGE BORBON AND D2 TRANSFER IKE MOORE.



MISSOURI BAPTIST RETURNS A HANDFUL OF PARTTIME STARTERS AND WILL LOOK TO LEAN ON SOME KEY TRANSFERS THIS SEASON. THE FIRST OF WHICH IS EVAN PALMQUIST (D1 MCNEESE STATE). STERLING BENJAMIN (DW ADAMS STATE) ALSO BRINGS SOME GOOD VETERAN PRESENCE TO THE LINEUP AS HE STARTED 13 GAMES AT ADAMS STATE WHILE AVERAGING 7PPG/5RPG. THIS COULD END UP BEING A REALLY TOUGH GROUP IF THEY GET TO CLICKING! THE TALENT SEEMS TO BE THERE ON PAPER AND PRESTON INGRAM IS A GOOD COACH.

Top Returners



COLLIN PARKER AND TRENDON TISDALE



DUKE HARDIN

Top Transfers



HENRY SHANNON (IA WESLEYAN)



SAGE BORBON (FRESNO CITY CC)



IKE MOORE (D2 PITT STATE)



EVAN PALMQUIST (D1 MCNEESE ST)



HARRISON VICKERS (D2 MARYVILLE)

Top Freshman

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier





Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



UNION WENT 24-0 IN LEAGUE PLAY LAST SEASON ON THEIR WAY TO THEIR 9TH STRAIGHT AAC TITLE. 3X ALL-AMERICAN, MARKELLE TURNER, HAS HAD AN AMAZING NAIA CAREER. HE'S A 2K SCORER, WON NUMEROUS AAC TITLES AND PLAYERS OF THE YEAR AWARDS. NOW HE WILL LOOK TO END HIS CAREER WITH A NATIONAL TITLE. TURNER, TERRIN HAMILTON (HM ALL-AMERICAN) AND MARKELLO SULIVAN ARE ONE OF THE BEST TRIO'S IN THE COUNTRY. THE BULLDOGS WOULD LOVE A 10TH STRAIGHT TITLE, BUT HAVE THEIR EYES SET ON BIGGER TARGETS THIS SEASON.



PIKEVILLE MAKES THE MOVE FROM THE MID-SOUTH CONFERENCE TO THE AAC THIS YEAR. A YEAR AFTER MAKING THEIR FIRST NAIA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT APPEARANCE SINCE THE MERGER. THEY HAVE THEY PLAYED IN ONE OF THE PREMIER CONFERENCES IN THE COUNTRY SO WILL BE USED TO THE GRIND, HOWEVER, THE AAC GRIND IS MUCH DIFFERENT AS LEAGUE GAMES START AS EARLY AS THE SECOND WEEK OF THE SEASON. IT'S A LONG CONFERENCE SEASON WITH 24 LEAGUE GAMES. THEY HAVE THE TEALENT AND EXPERIENCE TO COMPETE.



REINHART IS COMING OFF A SEASON WHERE THEY FINISHED TIED FOR 2ND PLACE IN THE AAC. THEY LOSE THEIR "BIG THREE" IN JALIN WIMBERLY, ANTONIO SPENCER AND TAFARI THOMAS. THEY DO RETURN TYLER SMITH (11.5PPG) AND NATE LOUIS (11.1PPG). THEY ALSO GET NAIA STERLING TRANSFER, DERRIAN REED (13PPG). THIS IS A BIG AND ATHLETIC GROUP ON THE DEFENSIVE SIDE OF THE BALL. THE EAGLES WILL HAVE A SHOT AT POSSIBLY PLAYING FOUR TOP 25 TEAMS IN THE 1ST SEMESTER ALONE. A GREAT SHOT TO BUILD A RESUME WITH A COUPLE OF BIG WINS!



COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL FINISHED 7TH IN THE AAC STANDINGS LAST SEASON, BUT GOT THINGS FIGURED OUT AT THE RIGHT TIME OF YEAR AS THEY WOULD TAKE HOME THE AAC TOURNAMENT TITLE TO ADVANCE TO THE NAIA TOURNAMENT. 1ST TEAM ALL-AAC SELECTION, DIANTHONY HITCHCOCK ALONG WITH FELLOW RETURNERS, DARRIAN OATES (2ND TEAM) AND JALEN BRINSON (ALL-DEFENSIVE TEAM) RETURN TO TRY AND CARRY SOME OF LAST SEASONS MOMENTUM INTO THIS YEAR!

Top Returners

Markelle Turner/Terrin Hamilton/Markello Sullivan

Korbin Spencer

Dianthony Heathcock

Top Transfers

Derrian Reed (Sterling)

Kyonte Thomas (Trinity International)

Issac Stanback (IU Southeast)

Top Freshmen

Tayden Owens

McCaskill Rivers

Japheth Richmond

Jadon Yeh

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Inside Preseason Bracketology



CALPAC

California Pacific Conference



Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



ANTELOPE VALLEY HAS A RICH TRADITION AND WHILE THEY WEREN'T QUITE THERE OVER THE COVID SEASONS, UAV LOOKED BACK LAST SEASON. THE PIONEERS ADVANCED TO THE NAIA TOURNAMENT AND WON THEIR OPENING ROUND GAME OVER A TOUGH WAYLAND BAPTIST TEAM. THEY RETURN THE CALPAC POY, MICHAEL HAYES. ARIK NICHOLS ALSO RETURNS AND IS FULLY HEALTHY. THEY BRING IN FORMER 4-STAR PROSPECT, SAMUEL AYOMIDE. THE 6'11 BIGMAN HAS BEEN PLAGUED BY INJURIES OVER HIS CAREER. THIS IS A TALENTED UAV GROUP WHO WE HAVE INSIDE OF OUR TOP 30 RIGHT NOW. DON'T BE SHOCKED IF THE PIONEERS MAKE AN EARLY SHOWING INSIDE THE TOP 25!



USK RETURNS CHRISTOPHER HARPER (2ND TEAM ALL-CALPAC AND MAUR TABLADA (CALPAC FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR). ELJAY GALLEGOS RETURNS BACK FROM HAVING KNEE SURGERY LAST SEASON AS WELL. USK WILL ALSO LEAN ON A HANDFUL OF TRANSFERS TO HELP THEM COMPETE FOR A CALPAC TITLE. DORIAN HARRIS, THE 6'6 D2 TRANSFER HAD A BIG TIME JUCO CAREER PRIOR. THEY ALSO GET AN INTRIGUING PROSPECT IN LOGAN PHILLIPS, WHO AVERAGED 7PPG AT D2 PURDUE-NORTHWEST TWO SEASONS AGO. XAVIER COOPER, FORMELY OF TRINITY INTERNATIONAL/ARIZONA CHRISTIAN, SHOULD ALSO HAVE AN IMPACT FOR THE FIREBIRDS.



UC MERCED HEAD COACH, KEVIN PHAM HAS THE PROGRAM GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AFTER A 21-9 SEASON AND A TRIP TO THE CALPAC TITLE GAME. THE BOBCATS WILL NOW LOOK TO TAKE THAT NEXT STEP BY COMPETING FOR A CALPAC TITLE AND ADVANCING TO THE NAIA NATIONAL TOURNAMENT. THEY LOSE MASON WESTLAKE AND KINGSLEY OBIORAH, BUT RETURN EVERYONE ELSE AND YOU CAN EXPECT YOUNGSTERS LIKE JAYSON WILTZ AND CAMERON BROWN TO HAVE BIGGER ROLES THIS SEASON. IF THEY CAN FILL THE VOID OF THEIR TOP TWO SCORERS, THE BOBCATS WILL BE TOUGH AGAIN!

Top Returners

 **Micahel Hayes - CALPAC POY**

 **Christopher Harper**

 **Maur Tablada**

B **Dame Zivak**

Top Transfers

B **Eric Norton (CSU Maritime)**

B **Emad Elniel (D2 Concordia St Paul)**

 **Skyler Robinson (D2 MSU Denver)**

 **Dorian Harris (D2 Chaminade)**

Top Freshmen

B **Awan Kueth**

 **Jon Taylor**

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier





Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



WHAT MORE CAN WE SAY ABOUT THE YOTES THAT WE HAVEN'T SAID ALREADY? DREW WYMAN, JAKE O'NEIL, JOHNNY RADFORD, SAMAJE MORGAN, TYLER ROBINETT ARE THE NAMES YOU KNOW. THEY DO BRING IN TRANSFER, ALEX GERMER (6'8 F, D1 MONTANA STATE). ALEX WAS THE 2021 MAX PREPS POY IN MONTANA. THE YOTES ALSO BRING IN FRESHMAN, DOUGIE PEOPLES, WHO WAS THE 2022 MONTANA GATORADE POY! THE RICH GET RICHER AS SORTS. THE YOTES ARE BACKFILLING THEIR ROSTER WITH YOUTH AND TALENT! THE YOTES HAVE WON CCC TOURNEY FIVE YEARS STRAIGHT AND 7 OF PAST 10 SEASONS!



THE OWLS HAD SEEMED TO HAVE A LOT OF BAD LUCK LAST SEASON AND JUST COULDN'T QUITE GET THE SHIP RIGHTED. WE WERE HIGH ON THE OWLS TO START LAST SEASON AND WE LIKE THEM AGAIN THIS YEAR. KEEGAN SHIVERS, LEADS A GROUP OF FIVE RETURNERS WHO PLAYED SIGNIFICANT ROLES LAST YEAR. INCLUDED IN THAT GROUP ARE ERIK FRASER (ACL) AND KAM OSBORN (LABRUM) WHO ARE BACK FROM MISSING HALF OF THE SEASON LAST YEAR. THE OWLS BRING IN FOUR FRESHMAN AS WELL. YANNI FASSILIS AND JACKSON COOPER ARE TWO WHO COULD HAVE MAJOR IMPACTS THIS SEASON.



THE INJURY BUG HAS GOTTEN THE BEST OF THE WARRIORS THE PAST TWO SEASONS. WHICH HAS GIVEN SOME OF THEIR YOUNG GUYS SOME GOOD PLAYING TIME AND WILL HELP WITH THEIR DEPTH THIS SEASON. DAVIAN BROWN (1ST TEAM ALL-CCC) RETURNS TO LEAD THE WARRIORS. HE WILL BE IN THE RUNNING FOR CCC-POY. THEY ALSO BRING IN A COPULE OF NICE PIECES IN JAEDON BRADLEY (D2 ALASKA ANCHORAGE) WHO AVERAGED 8.5PPG AND LORENZO MARSH (LONG BEACH CITY COLLEGE) WHO PUT UP 15.2PPG/6.3RPG LAST SEASON.



EASTERN LOSES BOTH, CONFERENCE POY, PHILLIP MALATARE AND ALL LEAGUE PEFORMER EMMIT TAYLOR III. THEY DO HAVE FOUR PLAYERS BACK WHO PLAYED GOOD MINUTES, LED BY ALL-LEAGUE PEFORMER, ADAM ORR. ORR WILL STEP INTO AN EVEN BIGGER ROLE THIS SEASON, BUT EO ALSO ADDS IN A REALLY NICE TRANSFER IN JONNY HILLMAN, WHO AVERAGED 14PTS PER GAME AT CARROLL. HILLMAN HAS THE POTENTIAL TO PUT UP EVEN BIGGER NUMBERS THIS SEASON AS EASTERN WILL GIVE HIM PLENY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO SCORE THE BASKETBALL.

Top Returners

Drew Wyman, Johnny Radford, Jake O'Neil, Samaje Morgan

Keegan Shivers

Tyrese Taylor

Davian Brown

Stevie Schlabach

Spencer Hoffman

Top Transfers

Johnny Hillman (Carroll)

Lorenzo Marsh (Long Beach City College)

Jaedon Bradley (D2 AK Anchorage)

Top Freshmen

Yanni Fassilis[®]

Jackson Cooper

Kami Muhammad

Dougie Peoples

Jayceon Smith

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier





Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



OLIVET NAZARENE CONTINUES TO BE DOMINANT INSIDE OF THE CCAC. THEY RETURN CCAC POY, TYLER SCHMIDT. THE 2ND TEAM ALL-AMERICAN HAS ALREADY HAD A NICE CAREER AND WILL NO DOUBT ADD TO THAT THIS SEASON! THE TIGERS ALSO RETURN ALL-CCAC MEMBERS, LANDON PFLEDERER AND CALEB SWEARINGEN. WITH 11 UPPER CLASSMEN RETURNING, THE TIGERS LOOK IN PRIME POSITON TO WIN THEIR 6TH STRAIGHT CCAC TITLE!



THIS WILL BE ROOSEVELT'S LAST SEASON AS AN NAIA MEMBER AS THEY MAKE THE MOVE TO NCAA D2. COACH DEE FORD HAS HAD A BIT OF A ROSTER OVERHAUL AS THEY PREP FOR THE MOVE. KANI ACREE (3.7PTS AND 3 STARTS @ D1 BALL STATE), CODY MITCHELL (14PPG/9.8RPG @ D3 ILLINOIS WESLEYAN), SANGOLAY NJIE (7.2PPG/5.0 AT D2 PURDUE NORTHWEST) AND FORTE PRATER (WAS A TOP 100 JUCO PLAYER LAST SEASON @ BISHOP STATE CC) LEAD A GROUP OF 12 NEWCOMERS. THEY JOIN RETURNERS MAURICE COMMANDER (CCAC NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR), JULIO MONTES (CCAC ALL-FRESH TEAM) AND SHANE STEVENSEN. THE LAKERS ARE CERTAINLY A TEAM TO WATCH IN THEIR FINAL SEASON!



FOR IU SOUTH BEND, DEJON BARNEY RETURNS AND THE BIG FELLA WILL BE IN THE RUNNING FOR CCAC POY. WHILE IUSB DID LOSE A LOT OF OTHER KEY PIECES, THEY BRING IN SOME REALLY GOOD TALENT IN QUENTEZ COLUMBUS (MANCHESTER), TERRY FORD (D2 LEWIS), JYLEN PETTY (KASKASKIA) AND JAMES YORK (WESTERN MICHIGAN). THEY ALSO WILL HAVE SOPHOMORE BIG MAN, NICK MULLEN, RETURNING AND, WHO I AM TOLD, HAD A BIG TIME SUMMER. A LOT OF NEW PIECES TO FIGURE OUT, BUT SCOTT COOPER IS A GOOD COACH WHO SEEMS TO ALWAYS HAVE IUSB IN THE MIX!



FOR SAINT XAVIER, CCAC NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR, CEDRIC JOHNSON AND KEVIN BISHIP (HM ALL-CCAC) RETURN AND THEY ADD IN SANDO HILL (LYON), WHO WAS AN ALL-AMC PERFORMER AT LYON LAST SEASON, AND ANDRE BRANDON (SAUK VALLEY). BOTH WILL NEED TO STEP IN AND STEP UP RIGHT AWAY! THE THING ABOUT SAINT X IS THAT THEY ALWAYS SEEM TO BE AROUND THE TOP OF THE CCAC.



IU NORTHWEST IS COMING OFF OF A REALLY NICE SEASON INSIDE THE CCAC. THEY LOSE STUD, JARED JOHNSON AND ISAAC STANBACK, BUT BRING IN FOUR JUCO TRANSFERS TO HELP OFFSET SOME OF THE SCORING JOHNSON AND STANBACK LEFT BEHIND. DANNIE SMITH (NMJC) AND DEMARIUS SPLUNGE (D1 DEPAUL) REUNITE WITH FOMER CHICAGO ORR TEAMMATE BRIAN HERNANDEZ. THE TRIO WON MULTIPLE STATE TITLES AT ORR. THEY WILL TEAM UP WITH, LAMARIUS LILLARD, WHO RETURNS AFTER AVERAGING 13PPG THIS PAST SEASON. THE TALENT IS THERE, IF THEY COME TOGETHER THIS COULD BE A DANGEROUS GROUP!

Top Returners

Tyler Schmidt - CCAC POY

Dejon Barney

Tommy Snyder

Aitor Anabitarte

Cedric Johnson

Top Transfers

Dannie Smith (NMJC)

Jalen Houston (D1 Illinois-Chicago)

Demarius Splunge (D1 DePaul)

Kani Acree (D1 Ball State)

Cody Mitchell (D3 Illinois Wesleyan)

Quentez Columbus (Manchester)

Terry Ford

Top Freshmen

Sam Ellis

Dawson Schmidt

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier



CONTINENTAL ATHLETIC CONFERENCE



Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



Florida College looks to make it three straight trips to the NAIA National Tournament. They lose All-American, Matt Simpson, as well as other mainstays in Phat Cleveland and Anthony Bittar. The good news is that the cupboard isn't empty! Drew Kramer returns, as does Jashavius Perdue. Both of which will handle bigger roles this season. The Falcons also bring in six transfers to help. Tyshon Judge (D2 Goldey-Beacom) looks like he may be the bucket getter they will miss in Matt Simpson. A lot to still like about this team though. We will see how quickly they can get things together as they have a very tough early schedule!



Washington Adventist comes into the season looking to get back to the NAIA national tournament after missing out last year. They bring back two of top three scorers in Mohamed Bundu and Christian Magruder. The Shock add D1 Transfers, James Lee (7.1ppg @ NJIT) D2 Transfer, Tunde Scrivner (8ppg @ Alliance) and JUCO transfer Armon Williams (All-Maryland JUCO 2nd Team).



With no real conference schedule, teams have to prepare for the CAC Tournament. Crowley's Ridge will look to get back to the NAIA tournament for the first time since the merger. They return Braxton Cousins, who averaged nearly 14ppg and add a couple of JUCO guys in George McCurdy and Jerrodney Tubbs (South Arkansas College)

Top Returners

 Mohamed Bundu

 Drew Kramer

 Braxton Cousins

 Tate Bear

Top Transfers

 James Lee (D1 NJIT)

 Armon Williams (Southern Maryland)

 Tyshon Judge (D2 Goldey-Beacom)

 Deonte' Martinez (Bismark State)

Top Freshmen

 Tobias Gunter

 Justin Kruszewski

 Gavin Hall

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier





CROSSROADS LEAGUE



Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



Grace (IN)

Grace should start out the season inside the Top 5 of the NAIA rankings. The Lancers have made back-to-back trips to Kansas City and while they fell a little short of their goals last season, they are locked and loaded once again. They have arguably one of the most dominant players in the NAIA in big man, Elijah Malone. They also have two elite guards in the Gibbs twins. If they can shoot the ball from three well enough, the Lancers can certainly be holding the Red Banner at the end of the season.



Indiana Wesleyan

It's hard to look past IWU when it comes to Crossroads League titles. Indiana Wesleyan has lost some big-time players over the past two seasons, but they bring in Luke Brown, who averaged 10.2pts at D1 Stetson last season. Paired up with Javan Buchanan, who is coming off of a stellar Freshman campaign and 1st-team All-CL member, Griffin Kliever have the Wildcats ready to compete for a National Title.



Huntington (IN)

Whenever you bring back the Crossroads League Player of the Year you automatically put yourself into contention for a CL Title. Zach Goodline is as tough as they come across the NAIA and after testing the waters, elected to come back to Huntington for one more season! His running mate, Lane Sparks (1st-Team All-CL) also returns.



Marian (IN)

Marian loses some heavy hitters as Taeshon Cherry, Christian Harvey and Hayden Langkabel are all gone. Their 4th and 5th leading scorers from last season, Brody Whitaker and Josh Bryan are back though. The Knights also return big man Jackson Ames, who also should see an uptick in production this season. JUCO Transfer, Joe Rush, should come in and help offset some of the scoring!

Top Returners

- Zach Goodline - 2023 CL POY
- Lane Sparks
- Elijah Malone
- Jakob Gibbs
- Gabe Newhof
- Drew Lutz
- Nathan Aerts
- Zane Burks
- Kade Ruegsegger
- Griffin Kliever

Top Transfers

- Luke Brown (D1 Stetson)
- Nathan Childress (Indiana)
- Bailey Conrad (D1 The Citadel)
- Beau Ludwick (Holy Cross)
- Joe Rush (Cabrillo CC)
- Gus Etchison (Western Michigan)
- Charlie Yoder (Incarnate Word)
- Aaron Etherington (Toledo)

Top Freshmen

- Dylan Moles
- Aidan Franks
- Dante Favor
- Luke Stukey
- Ian Raasch
- Gage Stifton
- Rasheed Sampson
- Marcus Ankeny

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier





Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



As we mentioned in the Top 25, Montana Tech is a team we are really big on this season. Caleb Bellach is one of the best players in the country. He got hurt and didn't get a chance to play in the National Tournament last season. He is hungry for his team to get back! Not only do the Orediggers return everyone from last years team that made it to the NAIA Quarterfinals, but they also get back Ieanyi Okeke, who miss almost all season with an injury. Braydon Koch comes over from Carroll after a terrific Freshman season. This is a DEEP and talented group who can make another big run!



New Head Coach, Ryan Lundgren, will look to enter the Frontier Conference gauntlet and come out with a title! He was able to recruit last years leading scorer, Andrew Cook, back to the program! Isaiah Moore, who started 5 games, and Derek Kramer, who started 6 games as a Freshman, also returns. On the transfer side, Shaheed Muhammad (Williston St) and Kendall Moore (Corban) will help to bring some needed scoring to the lineup!



We believe Rocky is ready to take that next step up this season. Maxim Stephens and Kael Robinson return. Both were 1st Team All-FG. We are going to see what they are made of early, as they have a very tough schedule. Win or lose, this is a team that can make some noise. With 10 returners this team has good depth and experience. They will add in Gregory Wilson and Cameron Quinnell to the mix. Wilson is a big time scorer!

Top Returners

MT Caleb Bellach - Frontier POY

M Asa Williams

E Maxim Stephens

E Kael Robinson

E Andrew Cook

W Davien Harris-Williams

Top Transfers

E Shaheed Muhammad (Williston St CC)

E Kendall Moore (Corban)

R Jalyn Stepney (Shoreline CC)

R Quincy Taylor (Central Washington)

M Braydon Koch (Carroll)

N Xavier Bailey (North Idaho CC)

Top Freshman

M Noah Dowler

E Cameron Quinnell

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier





Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



Arizona Christian is usually a team that reloads with talent every year. However, Head Coach, Jeff Rutter and staff, has the luxury this season of returning four of their top five leading scorers including three key contributors from their 2021-22 Fab Four run. 3rd team All-American, Paul Hayden leads the charge. A healthy Dennis Flowers all season will help as well! This is a deep, athletic and talented Arizona Christian team.



The Master's had a really nice season last year before getting knocked out in the opening round of the NAIA tournament. Not to make excuses for them, but having to travel from Cali to Florida for an opening round tourney game can cause issues. This season the Mustangs return the GSAC POY and All-American, Kaleb Lowery and 1st teamer, Jordan Caruso. Joining the Mustangs this season are two very talented transfers in Ty Harper and Jalen Natarrete. Lowery, Harper and Caden Starr were all HS teammates. The Master's looks primed for another big year!



Hope International always keeps themselves in the mix in the GSAC. With Sebastian Castro returning, HIU should once again, be near the top of the GSAC. Tristin Williams, who started 30 games last season, is the only other lone starter to return. Calen Murray, Caleb Christopher and Gaven Ramirez all will be asked to do more this season. The Royals have a huge Freshman class coming in. If they can get one or two to give them some good minutes and add to their depth, the Royals can certainly compete!



What a year OUAZ had last season as they made it all the way to the NAIA Fab Four! They lose both Josiah De la Cerda and Keshawn Bruner, but don't sleep on the Spirit! OUAZ returns Alex Villi, who had some big moments last season. They also return Jayce Catchings and McKay Bundy who both played over 20 min per game. They bring in Jacob Henry (Yuba CC) and Bryce Fitzgerald (CU Irvine) as guys who should help pick up some of the scoring they lost. They aren't overly deep, so if Freshmen Nathan Hocking and Angelo Gil can grow up fast, OUAZ can get themselves back to the NAIA Tourney!

Top Returners

M Kaleb Lowery - GSAC POY

H Sebastian Castro

A Paul Hayden

R Austin Cook

S Alex Villi

M Myles Corey

Top Transfers

M Ty Harper (D1 LA LAFAYETTE)

M Jaren Nafarrete (D1 Seattle U)

R Pape Momar Cisse (North Alabama)

A Anthony Garza (Ventura CC)

R Anthony Howell (San Diego CC)

S Jacob Henry (Yuba CC)

V Eric Blackwell (Glendale CC)

Top Freshman

M Jacob Okonowski

R Jackson Floyd

A Sam Buckley

R Zach Murphy

S Nathan Hocking

V Salim Arikat

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier





Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



Northwestern, despite losing All-American, Alex Van Kalsbeek in the 4th game of the season, finished 20-10 on the season with a birth in the NAIA Tourney. A lot of that was behind the play of Dillon Carlson and Craig Sterk. If/When Van Kalsbeek returns to full health, Northwestern could find themselves as a real National Championship contender. Kris Korver is one of the best coaches in the country and this Red Raiders team is going to be a lot of fun to watch this season!



Morningside has a terrific Senior class that is hungry to get back to Kansas City after making it last season. Ely Doble and Joey Skoff were both 1st team All-GPAC selections. Jack Dotzler and Aiden Vanderloo are back as well. Aiden still never looked fully healthy at the end of last season, but if he comes back and is healthy this season, the entire Mustang offense will open up as he can be one of the better shooters in the NAIA. The GPAC is going to be very tough once again, especially at the top, but the veteran leadership in the Mustang locker room should help keep them in contention all season long!



Dordt will start the season as a Top 15ish team. The Defenders return two 1st team All-GPAC selection in Bryce Coppock. Dordt returns almost everyone off of the 26-7 team from last season. They made it to the Round of 32 last year, but will have a trip to KCMO on their list for this season! The Defenders play a fun style of play and make it difficult to matchup. This team is going to be dangerous all season long!



The Jamestown Jimmies are the only team in the NAIA who have made it to Kansas City in each of the 1st three seasons of one division. Losing National Player of the Year, Mason Walters and Marc Kjos hurt. A lot. However, the cupboards aren't bare for Danny Neville and the Jimmies. They return 2nd team All-GPAC performers, Cole Woodford and Will Cordes along with backups Reid Gastner, Colby Vazquez and Jimmy Llinas. They get a really good scorer in transfer, Silas Bennion (LCSG) and will also lean on both Antonio Chandler (Franklin Pierce) and Covy Kelly (Walla Walla CC).



Noah Schutte and CUNE went 18-13 last season and received a 15-seed for the NAIA tourney. That didn't stop them from giving 2-seed OKWU hell and losing by 2pts. Schutte was HM All-American and has already had a big time career at the NAIA level. Tristan Smith also returns. He is back healthy which is a good sign. With 4 of 5 starters back and the dynamic duo of Schutte and Smith, the Bulldogs are certainly a team who will cause a lot of headaches in the GPAC again this season!

Top Returners

- Dillon Carlson
- Alex Van Kalsbeek
- Craig Sterk
- Bryce Coppock
- Ely Doble
- Joey Skoff
- Noah Schutte
- Brady Timm

Top Transfers

- Silas Bennion (Lewis Clark State)
- DaRon Hall (Elgin CC)
- Quinn Johnson (D2 UN-Kearney)
- Cam Binder (D2 UN-Kearney)

Top Freshman

- Spencer Barr
- Angok Akot
- Micah Johnson
- Brooks Kissinger
- Lukas Helms

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier





Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



Tougaloo is coming off of a bigtime season that saw them reach the NAIA Quarterfinals. It's the first time a GCAC team has made it to the NAIA Quarterfinals since the field expanded to 64 teams. Limited information is currently available for this season.



Limited information is currently available for this season.



Limited information is currently available for this season.



Wiley head coach, Joseph Flegler went out and got a very good recruiting class and is hoping to make some noise in his second season. Demarius Pitts (UMKC) is a former CIAA Rookie of the year winner. They got Delor Johnson from Louisiana College who was a 2nd Team All-RRAC selection. They will also lean on Tre Booker (D1 Long Island) and Jalen Bates (D2 Georgian Court).

Top Returners

Limited information is currently available for this season.

Top Transfers

- Delor Johnson (Louisiana College)
- Demarius Pitts (D1 UMKC)

Top Freshmen

- Tre Booker (D1 Long Island)

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier





**Defending Regular Season
Champions**



**Defending AMC Tournament
Champions**



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



The Statesmen have owned the Heart of America since joining the league. They have now won 4 straight regular season titles and have won 7 of the last 8 titles. They have also won 4 straight Heart Tourney titles as well. Coming into this season, William Penn loses nearly everyone. CJ Washington and Jayvin Brown return and Manny Hammonds and Cam Marshall both will come off of their redshirt season to try and have impacts as Freshman. It's a little bit of a different look Statesmen team, but Coach John Henry always has his Statesmen atop the league standings!



MNU returns three impact players from last season. Anthony Brown is coming back for his 5th season. Brown has had a heck of a career already! Ed Wright (1st Team All-Heart) and Caleb Jones-McCrary (2nd Team All-Heart) also return. This is a VERY veteran group, who is coming off of a National Tourney appearance.



After missing out on the NAIA tournament last season, Head Coach, Matt Sherman and staff, went out and loaded up! Transfers, TreVon Smith, Peter Turay and Trey Sinegal join forces with returners Everett Stubblefield, Isaiah May and others to make the Eagles a serious contender for a Heart title!



The Bobcats really came on strong in the second half of the season last year. A big reason for that was the addition of David Wingett Jr. The D1 transfer from South Dakota St. really added to the Bobcats as they qualified for the NAIA Tourney. Losing Lorenzo Anderson and Troy Houghton are tough, but D1 transfers, AJ Richard and Carlos Hines should help fill the void and make the Bobcats a contender for a Heart title!

Top Returners

Anthony Brown

Ed Wright

Quentiin Harvey

Everett Stubblefield

Ryan Bartley

Jace Lance

David Wingett

Top Transfers

TreVon Smith (D1 Middle TN St)

Trey Sinegal (Marshalltown CC)

AJ Richard (D1 Murray State)

Carlos Hines (D1 Northern KY)

Jake Layman (D2 SW Minnesota St.)

Austin Braun (Spring Arbor)

Ayden Foster (Linn-Benton CC)

AJ Watson (CUNE)

Top Freshmen

Gerard Bosch

Manny Hammonds

Cam Marshall

Rex Blaine

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier





Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



OKWU, rightfully so, was a Top 10 team for most of last season. With Jaden Lietzke, Kaleb Stokes and Derrick Talton Jr (KCAC DPOY) in the fold, OKWU should be a Top 10 team most of the season once again. Brandon Byrd and Austin Poling won't be easy to replace, but Donnie Bostwick, continues to get kids bought into their system and there will no doubt be guys filling those voids this season. The Eagles are a legit National Title contender!



The Builders had a tough second round draw last year in the NAIA National Tourney as they had to face off with a very good Langston team. The good news though is that both Cevin Clark and Andrew O'Brien return this season. Cevin is one of the best shooters in the entire country, at any level. O'Brien led the country in triple-doubles and near triple-doubles, last year. This is going to be another fun season for Southwestern fans. The Builders are talented and have good depth, once again. Very hungry and motivated group!



Alex Littlejohn and Jun Murdock return to lead a Kansas Wesleyan team that went 26-5 last season. A record that ranks as the second-best season in KWU history. KWU actually returns a total of seven guys from last year's team. That experience should really go a long way, not just in the KCAC, but in terms of the Coyotes wanting to make a deeper run into the NAIA tourney as well. Danair Dempsey (Iowa Western CC) will help provide another scoring punch. With back-to-back Round of 32 exits, KWU is looking to make a trip to Kansas City this season!



Evangel comes over to the KCAC from the Heart of America where they finished inside the Top 3 each of the past two seasons and made the NAIA tourney both years. The KCAC was super top heavy last season, so the addition of Evangel, helps to make the league a little deeper this year. All-American, Josh Pritchett, leads a group of six Valor returners. They also bring in D2 transfer, Josh Mason (Henderson State)

Top Returners

- Jaden Lietzke - KCAC POY
- Kaleb Stokes
- Cevin Clark
- Andrew O'Brien
- Alex Littlejohn
- Jun Murdock
- Deondre Buggage
- BC Carmelo Yakubu

Top Transfers

- Wade Autenreith (Clackamas CC)
- Josh Pritchett (Heart - KCAC)
- Josh Mason (D2 Henderson State)
- Steele Chapman (Hutchingson CC)
- Connor Slater (D2 Arkansas Ft Smith)
- Collin Stoor (Northeast CC)
- BC Eli Wiseman (Butler CC)

Top Freshmen

- Ovie Agbigbe
- Humberto Kentish Jr.
- Labron Wilson
- Dason Cook
- Harrison Doennig
- Chase Ferguson
- Jabin Gardiner
- BC Cade Kittrell

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier





Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



The once ELITE Mid-South Conference may look a little different this season, as just seven teams remain. One thing, that remains consistent though, is that Georgetown will be a contender to win the league again. They are fresh off of another Fab Four appearance. Kyran Jones and Cam Brooks-Harris help to make a dynamic duo that makes a lot of mismatches for other teams. Tae Dozier and Jaquay Wales also return. Chris Briggs is a National Championship Head Coach, and you can bet that he will have the Tigers in the mix for a National Title once again.



Freed-Hardeman snuck up on a lot of people last season. The Hunter Scurlock, Ryley McClaran, Jaquan Lax trio is going to be fun to watch again this season! The Lions return six of their top 7 players from a team who made it to Kansas City last year. They were one of the best defensive teams in the country and if they can buy into that again this season, there is no reason we can't see FHU back in Kansas City this season!



It's not an easy task to replace Steven Fitzgerald and Jahi Hinson, but Cumberland is going to have to do just that if they want to compete this season! They for sure have one of them replaced with former NAIA All-American, Jonathan Brown (Montana) who left Central Methodist to turn D1. Brown resurfaces with Cumberland and will be a MSC POY candidate! The other transfer to keep an eye out for is DJ Jones (Dodge City CC). Jones is a tough guard who really score it. Both him and Brown will have immediate impacts for a talented Cumberland squad!

Top Returners

- Cam Brooks-Harris
- Kyran Jones
- Tae Dozier
- Hunter Scurlock
- Ryley McClaran
- Jaquan Lax
- Querrion Gadson

Top Transfers

- Isalah Mason (D1 Northern KY)
- Jonathan Brown (D1 Montana)
- DJ Jones (Dodge City CC)
- Kendan Maddox (D2 Albany St.)
- Bryce Brown (Tarleton St)
- Olson Nicholson (Trinidad St. CC)

Top Freshmen

- Kenyata Carbon
- Barrett Burchyett
- Devin Hill

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier





Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



Coach Brandon McGruder and staff aren't messing around this season! Not only do they bring the NSAA POY, Thomas Gieske, back, but they also are bringing in some really nice transfers. Brenton Woods, Darren Calhoun and Darren Jones are all really successful JUCO players. Jesse Bergh, at 6'10, will be the biggest and possibly the most dominant big in the NSAA this season. Like every team, there will be some kinks to work out to get guys to mesh and play well together, but if that happens, don't be shocked to see Mayville State creep it's way into the Top 25!



Viterbo brings back former NSAA POY, Jack Monis. They also return Ben Olson, who is coming off of a NSAA Fr of Year season. They finished 2nd in the league last season, before being upset in the opening round of the NSAA tournament. The V-Hawks will look to bounce back this year and compete with defending champs, Mayville State.



Dickenson State looks to improve on their 3rd place NSAA finish last season. THEY BRING BACK 1st Team NSAA selection, John Evans, HM All-Conf, Kose Egbule and 6'7 F, Gus Wright. Coach Derek Salvig is also adding to the mix with two intriguing JUCO prospects in Trey Stevens (Spokane CC) and Aidan Fishell (Dawson CC).

Top Returners

-  Thomas Gieske - NSAA POY
-  Jack Monis
-  John Evans

Top Transfers

-  Darren Jones (College of Southern NV)
-  Brenton Woods (Central AZ CC)
-  Jesse Bergh (O2 MSU Moorehead)
-  Darren Calhoun (LA Southwest CC)
-  Colby Dillenbeck (Mayville St.)
-  Colby Dillenbeck (Mayville St.)
-  Trey Stevens (Spokane CC)
-  Aidan Fishell Jr (Dawson CC)

Top Freshmen

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier





Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



Coach Kyle Blankenship is on the short list of coaches who seem to just be great at reloading every single season. The Pilots have done that once again. They do bring back CJ Carpenter (2nd Team), Jordan DeCuir (RRAC Fr of Yr), Tyler Washington and Damon Davis, who put up 37pts in opening round win. Added to the mix is Josh LeBlanc, former All-Big East Freshman. Melvion Flanagan (D1 Wichita St), Jalen King (D2 UTPB), Paul King (Led D2 OK Baptist in scoring) and Langston transfer, James Ellis.



Tx A&M Texarkana is looking to make it back to the NAIA Tournament once again. This past season they went 22-9 before losing in the opening round of the NAIA tourney. They lost Tray Spencer, Kobe Powell and Connor Oullette, BUT you have to love what the Freshman, Colby Rasberry, did last season. Him and Myles Black will be taking on larger roles for the Eagles. Coach Ryan Wall is adding seven transfers to the mix as well. Jeff Norment is an elite scorer and since the Eagles had success with another former Last Chance U kid last year, they are bringing in Dezmond Washington (East LA CC) to help as well. This is going to be a very talented TAMUT squad this season!



Lance Williams and Cory Wells make their return back to XULA this season. Xavier is the defending RRAC Tourney champions. They are well coached by Alfred Williams and have made back-to-back NAIA tournaments. They picked up a win in the opening round before losing to the eventual National Champions, College of Idaho.

Top Returners

- CJ Carpenter
- Tommy Law

Top Transfers

- Paul King (D2 Oklahoma Baptist)
- Josh LeBlanc (D1 Nicholls St)
- Melvion Flanagan (D1 Wichita St.)
- Jeff Norment (Dyersburg St)
- Dezmond Washington (East LA)

Top Freshmen

- Tahj Roots
- Olivier Borgol

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier





Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



Miki Tadic returns! The 3x All-RSC player, who holds the single season 3pt made record for Rio, is one of the best players in the RSC. Rio returns 8 of their Top 10 players from a squad who won their opening round game against Marian. They pick up Jay Moore, a walk-on D1 transfer from West Virginia and Erwin Gusic (D2 Malone) who started for Malone. Those additions make Rio a very talented and deep team.



Eric Echelbarger does such a great job with this program. They have graduated a lot over the past two seasons, but you just can't help but feel like IUK is always going to compete. Ty Willis had a really good Freshman campaign and should step into a bigger role this year. The Cougars also return Julien Hunter, Noah Harris and Hunter Jackson.



A late IU Southeast hot streak, most likely, ended any chances Point Park had at getting an at-large selection last year. Despite our constant hype. BUT, here we are again, starting earlier on our Point Park hype! The RSC POY, Jo Valrie is back. So is Jalen Stamps. They have six players back from a 23-7 team last year and bring in Grad Transfer, Jamieson Smith (IU East) and Daniel Felix (SAGU). This is a good ball club, now it is just time for them to back it up!



For IU Southeast, thier magical season ended in the opening round of the NAIA tourney. It was a heck of a year though! The Grenadiers get back Jocobi Hendricks (1st team All-RSC) and JJ Reed. Only losing 3 Seniors from a team that won 15 straight games headed into the National Tourney!



Shawnee State joins the River States Conference for the first season. They won a National Title three seasons ago, but a lot has changed since then. Michael Hunter is the new head coach. Coming with him from SWMC are Keith Germain and Elkin Ramirez. They also will turn to JUCO All-American, Tyreke Johnson. Should be a fun first season for Shawnee!

Top Returners

- Jo Valrie - RSC POY
- Jalen Stamps
- Miki Tadic
- Jocobi Hendricks
- Jake Johnson

Top Transfers

- Jay Moore (West Virginia)
- Erwin Gusic (D2 Malone)
- Jamieson Smith (IU East)
- Keith Germain (SWMC)
- Elkin Ramirez (SWMC)
- Tyreke Johnson (Lakeland CC)
- Coble Barnes (D1 SIUE)
- Blake Welle (D1 Cal Berkeley)

Top Freshmen

- Joseph Annan
- Julien Hunter
- Shon Tupuola

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier



SAC



Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



Chris Wright has done it again. He has the Lions loaded back up and ready to compete for a National Title. As always, talent doesn't always mean wins, but Langston is as good of an NAIA team, on paper, as you may see. There may be some growing pains of learning to play with one another, but if they can get that figured out, WATCH OUT!



Speaking of talented teams, Wayland could possibly have one of the best duo's in the NAIA this season with Linton Brown (D1 Coastal Carolina) and Meikkel Murray (D1 Central Michigan). Both put up really good numbers at their D1's. They also bring in Jahvonta Jones (Univ of SW), Brett Leach (Midland JC), Deuce Guidry (LSPA), Rodney Carson (UTPB), Angel Smith (Daytona State) and bring back D'Michael Bellfield, Dylan McDougal, Jaxon Reecer and Bol Tong. Just another team absolutely loaded!



SAGU is coming off of another NAIA Tourney bid. They return Cortland Blake, Alerick Hall and Noah Boling. Coach Delton Deal also is bringing in Donte Houston, Cedric Kelley and others to keep them as a contender and not a pretender. As you can see to the right, the entire league is making moves to try to be great!



Seems like the SAC stole every player from the transfer portal! USAO has 7 themselves. Reggie Quezada (D2 Angelo St.) and Anthony Ray (Johnson & Wales) highlight the class. USAO did a good job of getting some size, speed and shooting! Both Manny Gatkek and Jayden Causwell are returning back to USAO after spending last season elsewhere. Chris Francis and the Drovers just may have the squad to get them back to Kansas City!



Kristian Lafayette comes back from injury. The 2021-22 SAC Newcomer of the Year, is a welcomed site for Texas Wesleyan. The Big man, when healthy, has been dominant. The Rams also bring in two D1 transfers in Richard Amaefule and Montez Young! The SAC, with all these transfers, could end up being back to an ELITE league!

Top Returners

- Cortland Blake
- Avery Jackson
- Cortez Moseley
- Toru Dean
- Kristian Lafayette
- Rory Pantophlet
- Vernon Johnson

Top Transfers

- Anthony Roy (D1 NM State)
- Ronald Mitchell Jr (D1 Sam Houston St.)
- Jay Allen-Tovar (D1 New Mexico)
- Darrius Hughes (D1 Wagner)
- Byron Smith (D1 FI A&M)
- Linton Brown (D1 Coastal Carolina)
- Meikkel Murray (D1 Central Michigan)
- Darrius Hughes (D1 Wagner)
- Connor Kern (D1 TAMU Corpus Christi)
- Kanttrel Burney (West Alabama)
- Fred Robinson IV
- Donte Houston (D1 SELA)
- Cedric Kelley (McClennan cc)
- Richard Amaefule (D1 Dayton)
- Montez Young (D1 UTA)
- Eddie Smith (Miles CC)

Top Freshmen

- Ryein Kennedy
- Zach Hays
- JaIen Goar

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier



SOUTHERN STATES

Athletic Conference



Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



GJ Hines and Trace Hill are gone for Faulkner. Which leaves Jonathan Garcia as the leading returner. The Eagles also bring in Sean McCurdy (Pacific Lutheran) into the fold. JC Norris redshirted last season and should have an impact as well. There are several teams in the SSAC who all look very similar! Faulkner has been a staple in the league for a while now.



Loyola is just two years removed from a National Title. There isn't much left from that team as Zach Muller and Jalen Galloway both graduated. Milan Mejia is the top returning scorer at 10.9ppg. The two youngsters, Alex Hammond and Leonard Jackson are back after good Freshman campaigns. A trio of transfers will look to come in and add to the depth. Braelee Albert (Tulane), Julian Baldwin (East Central) and Cameron Williams (Millsaps) should all have impacts this season! The SSAC Coach of the Year, Donald Reyes, has the Wolfpack back and ready to make a run!



Life is coming into the season after qualifying for the NAIA tourney last season all with no Seniors on the team. Joshua Ward, as a Freshman, led the team in scoring and was a 1st team All-SSAC selection. Coach Kevin Easley adds Florida College transfer, Phat Cleveland, a former SSAC Freshman of the Year winner to the mix. They also get some size with Last Chance U palyer and D1 Grambling transfer, Joshua Phillips. The Eagles look primed to take another big step up this season!



UT Southern begins their new era as members of the SSAC. They return everyone but Kavion Hancock, from a team that was 17-11 and on the wrong side of the bubble last year. Adarion Hudson is switching up to #55 this season. Which you know we love when guards wear #55! Him and Brady Brown give the Firehawks a great duo. Add in Koby Isaac and the Firehawks have some good firepower! They aren't oeverly big, so they will have to scheme some for some small ball lineups, but a team that can compete!



Mobile, quite honestly, looks to be sitting in the best position currently and it won't be a shocker if the Rams end up winning the league this season. They are the only team who returns two 1st team selections in Ezra McKenna and DaMariee Jones. Also back is 2nd team selection, Pooh Frazier. Josh Williams, who was an All-SSAC member in 21-22 returns to the Rams as well. They should be hungry after just missing out on a at-large selection last season!

Top Returners

- Jonathan Garcia
- Joshua Ward
- Ezra McKenna
- Damariee Jones
- Lance Smith
- Donovan Miller

Top Transfers

- Sean McCurdy (Pacific Lutheran)
- Adarion Hudson (MSC to the SSAC)
- Koby Isaac (Palm Beach JC)
- Braelee Albert (Tulane)
- Julian Baldwin (East Central College)
- Cameron Williams (Millsaps)
- Phat Cleveland (Florida College)
- Jalen Broyles (Kansas City CC)
- Josh Williams (Arkansas Baptist)
- Antonio Lewis (Voorhees)
- Harrison Eghan (Glenville St.)

Top Freshmen

- Jayson Nixon
- Jayden Cooper
- Kameron Johnson
- Zachary Lee
- Oskar Guziak

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier



SUN CONFERENCE



Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



With Milton Mathews teaming up with big time transfers, Anthony Harris and Joshua Taylor St. Thomas may have as good of a trio as anyone in the country! Which is fun for a team coming off of a trip to Kansas City. They should start off the season as a fringe Top 15 team, but talent-wise, they can go toe for toe with almost anyone in the country. Like everyone else, the question is, can they piece it all together? Because if so, another deep run could be in the cards for the Bobcats!



Riley Minix is now at D1 Moorehead State, but the Fire still return three starters from a team that made the Round of 16 last year. Including 1st Team All-Sun performer, Reggie Mesidor. Anthony Duncan (Coastal Georgia) adds some good size and length to the mix, while Derek Murphy (Faulkner) and Makal Vassell (D2 Miles) both add some scoring options! Really eager to see how this team gels with it's new identity and who steps up to take those big shots that Riley Minix always made!



DELANO THOMAS LED SHAWNEE STATE TO A NATIONAL TITLE AND NOW WE GET TO SEE WHAT HE CAN DO IN SOUTH BEACH, WITH A NEW PROGRAM! HE WILL BE BRINGING IN NINE TRANSFERS. FOUR OF WHICH PLAYED FOR HIM AT SHAWNEE STATE. Nathaniel Powell Derrius Ward and Raheem Carter (Dillard) give them some nice size while All-American, Chanze Gruesoe (William Penn) gives them great PG play! The leagues talent also took a big jump up, but really love the players that Florida Memorial signed as I think they fit how Coach Thomas wants to play!

Top Returners

- Milton Mathews
- Reggie Mesidor
- K'Shun Stokes
- Logan West
- Christian Nurse

Top Transfers

- Anthony Harris (D1 North Carolina)
- Joshua Taylor (D1 Georgia)
- Justin Nicholson (D2 Lees McRae)
- Vincent Miskiewicz (D1 Wisc. Milwaukee)
- Tay Mitchell (Shawnee State)
- Chanze Gruesoe (William Penn)
- Raheem Carter (Dillard)
- Nick Filchner (Merrimack)

Top Freshman

- Jai White
- Calvin "BoBo" Sirmans
- Milos Stijepovic
- Ja'Quay Randolph

Champion Prediction



Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier



WHAC

WOLVERINE-HOOSIER ATHLETIC CONFERENCE



Defending Regular Season Champions



Defending AMC Tournament Champions



Qualified for Nationals



Favorites to Win League



Indiana Tech played for a National Title last season. Gone though, are the Super Seniors, Grant Smith, Rog Stein, Cory McKinney and Josh Kline. Heck of a core to have to replace! For us, we have the Warriors sitting just outside of our preseason Top 25. We are in a "wait and see" mode with them and their new pieces! Transfers Javel Lewis (Mid Michigan CC) and Nigel Martin (Sante Fe CC). Nigel really fits the G/F mold that Tech likes to utilize and should have a BIG year. If their freshmen can mature quickly, this Tech team can defend their WHAC Title from last season!



Madonna loses two major pieces in Mark Meddle and Henry Speight, but has six impact returners coming back including Brendan Young (1st Team All-WHAC). Transfers, Juan Cajelli (D1 New Orleans) and Sho-Ron Graham (Oakland CC) will help to provide some juice as well. This Madonna team will be tough once again and if they can click early on, we could see them in the Top 25 early this season!



1st Team All-WHAC, Cory Ainsworth returns for Cornerstone to go along with Eli Steffen, Luke Rowlinson and Jack Joldersma. The Golden Eagles have the talent and Kim Elders is just three wins behind Steve Knight (William Carey) for 1st place on the NAIA MBB Winningest Active Coaches list!



Lourdes continues to be a WHAC contender each year. With Joey Hollifield, Jackie Harris and Steve Colman Jr all back, they should remain a contender. I really like watching Dennis Hopson coached teams. Lourdes has been really good the past few seasons and are usually tough as nails! They have a strong core of returners and if they can get the transfers acclimated early, I think Lourdes will be tough to beat!



Don't be shocked if, at the end of the season, Rochester is atop the WHAC standings. James Ballard is gone and that is a big loss, however, WHAC Newcomer of the Year, Gunner Walters is coming off of a huge Freshman campaign and will get another big boost in production this season. Anthony Cukaj, Brandon Michrina, James Fisher and Stavros Polatoglou help give the Warriors the experience you need to win a WHAC title. Brody Parker (D1 Oakland) will look to come in and have an immediate impact and Brett White (Kellogg CC) put up big stat lines in JUCO. Won't be shocked if we see Rochester atop the WHAC standings come the end of the season.

Top Returners

- Brendan Young
- Andrew Rinn
- Cory Ainsworth
- Luke Rowlinson
- Joey Hollifield
- Jackie Harris

Top Transfers

- Juan Cajelli (D1 New Orleans)
- Sho-Ron Graham (Oakland CC)
- Shuann Monroe (Pikeville)
- Jakiel Wells (Shawnee State)
- Lawilliam Stevens (D1 Miami of Ohio)
- Brandon Beavers (Shawnee State)

Top Freshman

- Dallas Roberts/Xavier Sulaiman/Crew Gibson
- Noam Edri

Champion Prediction



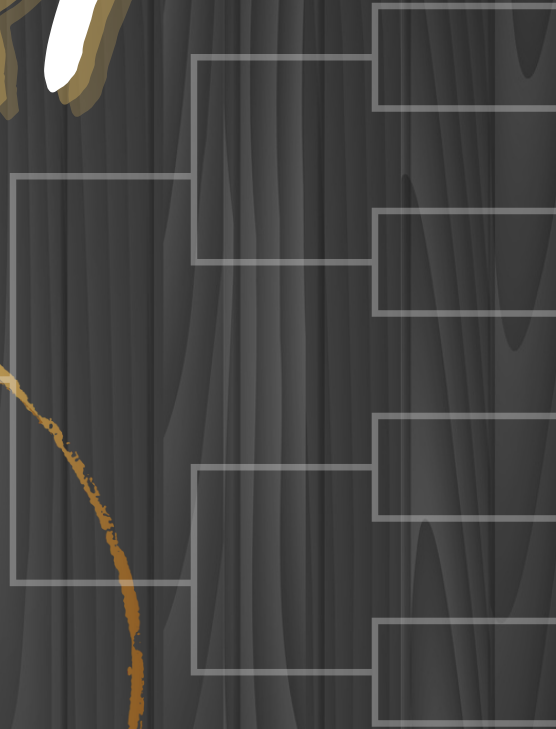
Under the Radar Team To Keep Eye On



Preseason Bracketology Qualifier



BRACKETOLOGY REPORT



- 1 College of Idaho
- 16 Washington Adventist (MD)
- 8 Madonna (MI)
- 9 Peru State (NE)
- 4 Wayland Baptist (TX)
- 13 Concordia (NE)
- 5 Kansas Wesleyan
- 12 Antelope Valley (CA)
- 3 Georgetown (KY)
- 14 Lourdes (OH)
- 6 Morningside (IA)
- 11 Evangel (MO)
- 7 Tougaloo (MS)
- 10 Southeastern (FL)
- 2 Union (TN)
- 15 IU Southesast
- 1 Arizona Christian
- 16 St Katherine (CA)
- 8 TX A&M Texarkana
- 9 SAGU (TX)
- 4 St Thomas (FL)
- 13 William Woods (MO)
- 5 Dordt (IA)
- 12 Hope International (CA)
- 3 Southwestern KS
- 14 IU South Bend
- 6 William Penn (IA)
- 11 Columbia (MO)
- 7 Indiana Tech
- 10 Pikeville (KY)
- 2 Montana Tech
- 15 Mayville State



March 15th - 26th

- Langston (OK) 1
- Florida Memorial 16
- MidAmerica Nazarene 8
- Bethel (IN) 9
- Freed-Hardeman (TN) 4
- Xavier (LA) 13
- Faulkner (AL) 5
- Jamestown (ND) 12
- Indiana Wesleyan 3
- Cornerstone (MI) 14
- Olivet Nazarene (IL) 6
- Science & Arts (OK) 11
- Life (GA) 7
- Shawnee St. (OH) 10
- The Master's (CA) 2
- Lewis-Clark St. (ID) 15
- Grace (IN) 1
- Point Park (PA) 16
- Central Methodist (MO) 8
- Rio Grande (OH) 9
- Huntington (IN) 4
- Ottawa AZ 13
- Northwestern (IA) 5
- Roosevelt (IL) 12
- LSU Shreveport 3
- Florida College 14
- Marian (IN) 6
- Oregon Tech 11
- Cumberlands (KY) 7
- Loyola (LA) 10
- Oklahoma Wesleyan 2
- Oklahoma City 15